



WOLSEY.

AUTHENTICK
MEMOIRS
OF THE *Gal 6. 2. c*
Life and infamous Actions
OF
Cardinal WOLSEY.

To a *certain Gentleman*, who takes the Character of Cardinal *Wolsey* to HIMSELF.

AN EPIGRAM.

*How vain, Sir Knight, is thy affected Rage,
That Thou and Wolsey, in the self-same Page,
Stand charg'd alike?—The Cardinal, 'tis true,
Had many publick Vices; — so hast Thou:
But He had Virtues, as his Foes agree;
Which, thy Friends own, are wanting all in Thee;
Tho' proud, corrupt, ambitious, and severe,
Still to the Muse He lent a gracious Ear;
Learned Himself, to Learning was a Friend;
Himself, adorn'd with Arts, did Arts defend;
Whilst all Thy Knowledge is confin'd to GAIN;
To FUNDS, and STOCKS, and BRIBES, thy
[Country's Bane;
His publick Spirit lives in Christ-Church Dome;
Thy Charity BEGINS, and ENDS at Home.
Craftsman, March 16, 1728-9.*

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for the Prosperity of England.*



T O

Sir *Tho. Hanmer*, Bart.

S I R,



HE Honour and Integrity with which you have always Voted for your Country's Interest, when in Parliament, and the steady Opposition you have always made to any Measures which you apprehended destructive of the Liberties of the Subject, induced me to think that I could not pitch upon a more proper Person to whom to inscribe the following Sheets than Sir *Tho. Hanmer*.

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iv DEDICATION.

They contain, as you will see, an exact and succinct Account of one of the most rapacious and insolent *Ministers*, that ever Heaven, for our Sins, had *till then* sent to visit the *English* Nation; a *Villain*, who puff'd up with *Power* and *Wealth*, insulted her greatest Nobility, and trampled under foot the *Laws* of the *Land*, secure, as he thought, in the Protection of a deluded gracious King.

But to the Terror of future evil *Ministers* it will be seen, that their is no Power so very great as to be always able to skreen him from the Vengeance of an *injured People*, and their *abused Sovereign* : No, the *English* Nation were never born to be such *abject Slaves*, to crouch to any Upstart whatsoever ; 'tis enough they are obedient to the Laws of the Realm, and their rightful Sovereigns, without being made Vassals, to bear the Burthens of their Fellow Subjects.

The Excellence of our Constitution makes it a Blessing which all Foreigners envy us to be born an *Englishman* ;
and

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and yet I can't help thinking, that in some Cases the Lenity wherewith our Laws treat *State-Plunderers*, is a Misfortune ; and that if an absolute Power were lodged somewhere, to be exerted on such Occasions, and oblige such *Wretches*, nay, and even their *Families*, to make Restitution of their ill-gotten Wealth, it would go a great way towards deterring others from striving to aggrandize themselves by *publick Rapine*, and at the *publick Expence*.

But the Mischief is, in such a Kingdom as ours, where the Right of every Subject is as well secured as the Prerogative of the Sovereign, there are so many Opportunities of secreting their ill-gotten Treasure, that 'tis much safer robbing the Publick of two or three Millions, than a private Person of five Pounds ; for a rich Rogue never wants Friends, whilst a poor pilfering Rascal is sure of being truss'd up.

However, as we may see, by the following Instance, there is no Stability

lity in Greatness founded upon Villany ; Cardinal *Wolsey* having a King for his Supporter, little thought the time would come when he should fall from that Height of Power, and be left destitute of Friends.

Edward III. was not only a brave, but a merciful Prince ; but when he found his Subjects oppress'd to the last degree by a worthless *Minister*, and the Name of *Majesty* prostituted to the vilest Uses, such Provocations rous'd him, and oblig'd him to exert the Monarch, and shake off the Administration of a vile Priest, whose sole Aim was *agrandizing* himself,

However some Folks may flatter themselves, the Groans of a *brave, oppressed, and injured* People, will always be heard, and find Redress sooner or later. Nay, where they imagine the Case desperate, and think they can have no Redress otherwise, 'tis not unprecedented for them to do themselves Justice, of which the *De Witts* in *Holland* are a melancholy Instance ; and I myself was an Eye-witness in a
popular

popular Commotion at *Brussels*, about 14 Years ago, when some of the *Burgomasters* had taken an Oath to the present Emperor; which the People imagin'd contrary to their Privileges, of the People's pulling down and plundering their Houses at Noon-day; nor had they escap'd the Fate of the *De Wits*, had they been found. Nor was this all, for the Garrison making a Shew of some Resistance, they very fairly pelted them out of Town with Stones, and had they fired a Shot, would have cut them all in Pieces,

But that, thank Heaven, is not the Case here in *England*, where no Man, how great soever, is above the Laws, but, if he deserves it, must have condign Punishment. He may, indeed, by the Force of Riches, put off the *evil Day* for some time, but that is only like a Reprieve, which flatters a Man with Hopes, and makes his Execution, when it comes fall the heavier, as it is unexpected.

I hope, Sir, you will be so good to pardon my trespassing upon your Pa-
tience

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tience so long in an Affair of this Nature ; I flatter myself that the good Intention wherewith I publish this Treatise will plead my Excuse ; had I been writing to any one but Sir *Tho. Hanmer*, I should have stuff'd my Dedication with Encomiums upon their Merits, and great Qualities, but I know, Sir, you are as far from desiring such fulsome Panegyricks, as most of those to whom they are address'd are from deserving them.

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.



T H E



AUTHENTICK
MEMOIRS
OF THE
Life and infamous Actions,
OF
Cardinal *WOLSEY*.



THE Histories of the Lives of particular Men, especially if they have been Persons in exalted Stations, are often of as much Service to Mankind, as the general Histories of any Country whatsoever.

AMONGST these, the History of Cardinal *Wolsey*, Prime Minister and Favourite to *Henry VIII.* is so very remarkable, that I flatter myself an Account thereof will not be

be unacceptable to the Publick. In the pursuit of this Undertaking, I shall be obliged to display such a Scene of Iniquity, as will astonish my Readers, and would hardly gain Credit, were not all the Facts here related confirm'd by our *English* Histories, and did not every Age produce Examples of Monsters of *Ministers*, who have stuck at nothing to aggrandize their Families, and fill their Coffers.

To begin then, Cardinal *Wolsey*, the Subject of the following Sheets, was born of a private Family in the *North of England*: His paternal Estate, as far as I can find, was not very large; but what he wanted in the Gifts of Fortune, was abundantly made up to him in an agreeable insinuating Address, which proved the means of his Advancement.

WHETHER his first going to Court, was meerly by Chance, or on account of any Business, is not easy to determine; but certain it is, soon after his arrival there, *Henry VIII.* cast a favourable Eye upon him, and it soon appear'd how great an Interest he had in that Prince.

'Tis from this Time we must date his Grandeur; for the King's Power being then absolute, no Places or Preferment could be obtain'd but through his Means, and on all such Occasions he took great care not to forget

get himself; no Person who appear'd before him *empty-handed* ever obtaining any favour of him.

NOT that after his coming into Power he ever appear'd himself in taking any *Bribes*; no, he was too cunning for that; but then he had a *trusty MAN*, who was employ'd underhand to receive them; and who determin'd the Merits of every one according to the Weight of his Purse, and not according to his Abilities; *Money* being the only Qualification requir'd by him in a Candidate to entitle him to any Post.

HOWEVER, as he did not arrive at that enormous height of Power all at once, to which he was afterwards advanced; and was sensible, that in case of the King's decease, he would not probably enjoy the same degree of Favour, as he then did by the *Ascendant* he had gain'd over him, he seeing with no Eyes but his, he studied how he might make himself necessary, by gaining a *corrupt Influence* over the *Parliament*, particularly the *House of Commons*, in whom was vested the Power of *granting Subsidies*.

ACCORDINGLY he introduced *Corruption* bare-faced, and *Votes* were openly bought and sold; nay, even Pamphlets were publicly written in defence of *Bribery*, which was maintain'd to be necessary for the support of the Government.

SUCH Positions as these being advanced so publickly did him no great Service, with thinking Men, who saw plainly that introducing *Corruption* openly, was infallibly paving the Way for *Slavery*, if ever an enterprizing Monarch should think proper to make an Attempt upon the *Liberties* of his *Subjects*, since if he cou'd corrupt the *Representatives of the People*, he might be sure not to meet with any Opposition to his Designs.

HEREUPON they resolved to join together to destroy *Wolsey*; but being clear-sighted enough to see that it would be in vain to attempt it during his continuance in favour with the King, they waited impatiently for the time when the King should see into his Design.

BUT before we proceed any farther, it will be proper to give an account by what Steps *Wolsey* mounted to that exorbitant height of Power to which he afterwards came to the Amazement as well as Terror of the whole Kingdom.

HE had not been long with the King, before his Majesty (not knowing his Intentions) began to load him with Favours, and conferr'd upon him divers Employments, of Value; by which means he was enabled to create a Dependance upon himself, and gain

gain a *corrupt Influence* over the *Parliament*, as was observed before, and is finely and pathetically lamented in the Play call'd, *The Fall of Mortimer*, wherein are many Passages applicable to the Minister of whom we treat at present, which for that Reason we shall quote.

Sir Robert Holland, says, speaking to Lord Mountacute, and Sir Tho. Delamore.

*How are we manag'd by an upstart Knave!
He rides the Priviledge of Peers and Commons;
For who in Parliament speaks not his Thoughts,
Must ne'er expect a smiling look from Court.*

Having gained this Influence, and thereby, as he imagin'd, made himself necessary to the Government, which could have no Money but thro' his Means, he having secured a *Majority* in the *House of Commons*, he was no longer upon his guard, but Places under him were publickly bought and sold.

As to his private Character, he was a great Bully, but a notorious Coward, very *Rapacious*, and at the same time very *Profuse*, *Insolent*, and *Vain* when in Power, but *Abject* and *Crouching* before he arrived at Preferment and when in disgrace. From such a *Composition*, when supported by the Favour of the King, who was intirely deceived by his Artifices, 'tis easy to judge what Sort of an Administration was to be expected

ACCORDINGLY all the *Nobles* and *Commons* who were not *bribed* were highly disgusted at his Insolence, and dreaded his arriving at the Height of Power to which he was afterwards advanced by King *Henry*, whose love to him grew so violent, that had it not been proper to keep some Measures he had long before been promoted to that *High Station* which put it in his Power to lord it over the People.

HOWEVER he had from time to time Places of greater Advantage conferred upon him, by which Means he had amassed a *considerable Estate* before he arrived at the Dignity of *Prime Minister*.

'Tis true he took care to have the *Treasury* pretty much at his *Command*, and had a short Way to account for all the *Money* he converted to his own Use, by setting it down to the Article of *SECRET SERVICE*; two Words that have since proved of wonderful Use, by several *Ministers*: Perhaps they might take the Hint from him.

BUT all his *Rapine* and *Corruption* before he was advanced to that *High Station* is not worth the mentioning if compared to his *Insolence* and *Oppression* after he was made Arch-bishop of *York* and Cardinal, and vested with that *Great Power*: None but his *Creature* or his own *Family* had any Employments conferred

conferred upon them without a *considerable Bribe* to his *rascally Agents*; by which Means, in a short Time, he amassed an Estate superior to the Revenue of several *Sovereign Princes*.

If any offered to oppose his *Villanies*, or his *scandalous destructive Measures*; he had a short Way of silencing them, by representing them as *disaffected Persons*, and saying that their *Resentment* proceeded from *Revenge* and *disappointed Ambition*; if that would not do, he had one sure *dernier Resort*, which was having Recourse to the *Secular Arm*, and ruining 'em by *expensive Prosecutions*.

NOR was this all: A set of *Knights of the Post*, *Spies*, and *Informers* were constantly kept in pay to swear any Person into a Plot who was not to be managed otherwise; till by his *Tyranny* he had brought Things to that pass, that few or none would venture openly to oppose him.

WHAT was most strange was, that *Wolsey* being but an *Upstart*, many of the antient Nobility should be so mean spirited to truckle to him, as Lord *Mountacute* pathetically complains in the aforesaid Play: His Words are these.

*What are our Princes? What our Nobles now?
Are they not Vassels to this Up-starts State?
No more the Fame of our Nobility*

Be

*Be call'd to mind; who, when usurping Powers
 Did but attempt to inovate our Laws,
 With their keen Swords like Guardian Angels
 stood,
 And kept the Harpies from the sacred Fruit.*

UPON which Sir Robert Holland instantly
 replies.

*Is it not fatal to resist his Will?
 Nay none must smile if Mortimer be sullen.
 Curse on his Pride — Why should we brook it
 longer?
 Why don't we boldly tell the King our Thoughts,
 And make him GREAT in spight of EVIL
 COUNCIL?*

Some *Anecdotes* say, that *Wolsey*, even when he first entered upon publick Business, and had an Employment bestowed upon him in the State, was grievously suspected of *imbezling Publick Money*, and was accordingly confin'd for some time; but this was when he was but a *youngster in Politicks*, and had not then learn'd all those *Statesman's Arts* which he afterwards put in practice, so much to the advantage and emolument of himself and Family; and which made it believ'd that those who were his *Accusers* had not wrong'd him in the least.

HOWEVER that was, when he next came into play, he had the satisfaction of taking full Revenge of his *Accusers* whom he would have

have *prosecuted* even to the *Scaffold*, had not some of them very wisely got out of his Reach, and others been acquitted by their Judges.

He likewise met with several other Shocks, which were likewise owing to to his *Haughtiness* and *Ingratitude* to those Friends who had contributed to his *Rise*, and introduced him at Court, before he attained to the *exorbitant Power*, which he afterwards *exercised so absolutely*.

PARTICULARLY, two Lords who had been his greatest Benefactors, having conferred upon him a very beneficial Employment, he very *gratefully in return*, used his utmost Endeavours to supplant them, and get them discarded ; but, unluckly for him, their Interest at Court being at that time greater than his, his design miscarried, and he had the Mortification to be dismiss'd himself, without any Hopes of being re-admitted into Power, at least during the Lives of these Noblemen.

By these Instances one may have an Idea not only of the *Gratitude* and *Friendship*, but even of the *implacable Temper* of this *Up-start*, whenever he had a Spleen against any one ; for he would not fail to shew it even in the most trivial Matters: A Gentleman for example of an Estate of about 9000 *l.* per Annum, having some Ways incurred his displeasure by opposing his Measures, tho' they had formerly
been

been intimate Friends, he could not rest whilst he suffered him to enjoy the most insignificant *Employment*, tho' not of the least Benefit and Advantage, except of being a Service to his County, which *Wolsey* never thought of, but by the Interest of this *Upstart* at Court had him so much as struck out from the *Commission of the Peace*, tho' it was only a Feather in his Cap, and he never acted in that Capacity.

THE Reader will not wonder that a Man of this *Complexion*, and so impatient of Controul, took Care to have neither Judge nor Prelate but what was firmly in his Interest; accordingly he never examined into their Abilities, but whether they would go *thorough-stitch* upon Occasion, and would not flinch when any dirty Work was to be done; if not they were the Men for his Money, and were sure of being preferred. Just as Serjeant *Either-side* says in the Play, call'd, *The Fall of Mortimer*, to that helish Minion of State.

—Twist a Whip, I'll go thorough-stitch,
my Lord — I'll wade through thick and thin, till
I'm made Chief Justice, or Chancellor.

HAVING thus by dint of *Bribery* and *Preferments* secured a Majority in *Parliament*, the Judges and the Bishops, it is no wonder he thought he might go any Lengths with impunity, as the poor oppressed People daily found to their

their Costs, there being no Way so infallible to *oppress a free born People*, as under *Colour of the Law*.

IN the mean while, Affairs abroad were in a most desperate Posture ; the *English* were *daily bully'd and insulted* on all Hands ; but *Wolsey* did not think fit to resent it, dreading nothing so much as a War, well knowing that his Talent did not lie that Way, and not dreading to hear of the Name of a Captain General, whose Authority he feared might in some Measure eclipse his.

WHEREFORE he claps up a *scandalous Peace* with the *French* upon dishonourable Terms ; but to secure himself he caused it to be given out by his *Hierlings*, that they were to pay a considerable Sum in Compensation for the Damages done to the *English* ; whereas in effect, he first remitted them the Money privately for that purpose.

THIS however could not be done so secretly but that some of the Nobility and Gentry who were not in his Interest got information thereof, whereupon they caused Papers to be published, wherein they gave Notice to the People of this *scandalous Trafick*, and ridicul'd the Measures and the *Peace* in such a Manner, that it put *Wolsey* at his Wits End, fearing some of those Papers might by some Means or other fall into the Hands of the King, and open his Majesty's Eyes so effectually

ally, that he might see through his *Male Practices*, and discard him instantly with Infamy.

As he had long dreaded this, he had taken great Care to suffer none to approach King *Henry* but his own Creatures, but lest that should not be sufficient, he thought it proper to take likewise into his Pay an *Army of Scribblers*, who were to answer whatever should be written against him, defend his *Blunders*, and vilify his *Adversaries* in a Manner hardly fit for *Billingsgate*.

ACCORDINGLY the whole *Posse* take Pen in Hand, and begin their Attacks according to their several Parts assign'd them, but so lame were their Performances, that they only exposed their Patron the more, and made him the Laughing-Stock of all People of common Sense.

ENRAGED at this Disappointment, *Wolsey* had recourse to *Violence*, and ordered all the Publishers and dispersers of these Libels, as he was pleased to call all the *Papers* that ridiculed his Measures, to be severely prosecuted.

HEREUPON nothing was to be seen about the Streets but a Set of *Spies* and *Informers*, who made it their Business to seize every Man that had a Paper in his Hand, and swear he was a disaffected Person, and a Publisher of Libels : This had no other Effect but to let
the

the World see that he was *gall'd*, and there was too much Truth in these Papers.

IN short had it not been for his *Bribery*, and having the Treasury at his Command, as well as the King's Ear, Affairs had long been brought to a Crisis before they were, and of this he was himself very sensible; for could he have had any tolerable Assurance of escaping without *Impunity* for his past *Crimes* and *Enormities*, he would very gladly have resigned all his Employments, and retired, well satisfied, as well he might, to have secured the *exorbitant Acquisitions* he had made, by *oppressing the People*, and *robbing the Publick*.

BUT this *miserable Wretch*, doom'd to an ill Fate, was just under the same *Predicament* as a Witch, who has sold herself to the Devil, and when she sees her Folly, and would repent, dares not for fear her Master should hurry her away.

JUST so it was with *Wolsey*, tho' he would have spent the Remainder of his Days in quiet, he durst not resign his Power, which was his only safety; and that as soon as ever he should be deprived thereof, his Enemies, of whom he had made great Numbers by his Insolence and Oppression, would infallibly attack him; and as certainly work his *Destruction*, if ever he were reduced to the Condition of a private Man.

FOR this Reason he was forc'd to retain his Post of *Prime Minister*, and continue his former *Oppressions* and *Exactions*, or even worse; hoping that way to quell the *Spirit of the People*, whom he saw daily ripe for *Mutiny*; well knowing, that to keep a *Nation poor*, and load them with *TAXES*, is a sure means to break their *Spirit*, and make them submit tamely to *Impositions*.

IN the mean while, to keep the *Vulgar* in awe, and force a certain Reverence to his Person, he was attended with Guards, and a numerous Train of Attendants; besides which, daily Accounts were publish'd of his *splendid Entertainments*, and *magnificent Palaces*: particularly one in the *North*, which not only vied with, but exceeded any of the *King's* both for the *beauty of its Structure*, and *richness of its Furniture*.

NAY, the *insolent Plunderer* was one time so *imprudent* as to suffer an *Account* of his *weekly Expences* at that *Palace* to be publish'd, which amounted to an exorbitant Sum *per Annum*; especially if one considers that his paternal Estate did not amount to more than 500*l. per Annum*; and even that was so incumber'd, that at his coming into Favour the last time, it was mortgaged for full as much as its *intrinsic Value*: And 'tis credibly reported, that he could not then have raised an hundred Marks upon his own Security.

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THE abovemention'd *discovery* therefore, instead of displaying his *Magnificence*, or *liberal Temper*, did him *infinite Disservice*, in as much as it open'd People's Eyes, and put the *sober Part of the Nation* upon thinking whence he cou'd have *accumulated such an exorbitant Estate*, as could maintain and support such weekly *Expences*.

BUT his *Conduct* on this head was full as *prudent*, as it was in all other respects; if, for instance, he had any *Affair to negotiate*, with any *foreign Court*, that was peculiarly famous for her *Address in managing Negotiations*, he would be sure to send thither the most *unqualified Person in the Kingdom*, who by his *Blunders*, should not only make himself a *publick Laughing-stock*, but should suffer himself to be *over-reach'd in every Point*!

AND yet this Wretch valued himself upon being a *consummate Statesman*, and when his *Mistakes* (to call them no worse) came to be enquir'd and examin'd into, would answer, *with the greatest Assurance*, THAT HE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF ALL HIS MEASURES, altho' he knew himself at the same time indispensably oblig'd immediately to change them, and take others that were quite contrary, against which he had just before inveigh'd himself, publickly and most violently.

THESE

THESE Errors, together with his *manifest Crimes*, and his *imbezzling the publick Treasure*, which were constantly exposed and detected, one would have thought would have been sufficient to have removed him soon from the *Administration*.

BUT, alas ! so greatly was the *King* prepossess'd in his Favour, and such a considerable Party had he secur'd in *Parliament* by his *profuse Bribes*, that the *very Persons*, who must be his *Judges*, were *as deep in the Mire* as he, and could not have condemn'd him, without being liable to the same *Condemnation* themselves : This made them very careful of making a *Precedent* by which they might one day suffer themselves ; thus he escap'd for some time, *not by his Innocence, but by the Enormity of his Crimes*.

HE was so unsufferably jealous of being satyriz'd, and so conscious of his deserving it for his Crimes, that a Man could not draw the Character of an *evil Minister*, or a *finish'd Villain*, but he would be ready to *foam at the Mouth*, and falling into a *Transport of Madness*, would swear that he sat for that *Picture*, and that the *Author* could mean none but him.

JUST so I remember a Story of a certain *Knight*, who being remarkably *ugly*, and passing by a *Painter's Shop* where, among several other *Pictures* exposed to sale, there was
one

one of a *Baboon*, in a human Dress, drawn to the Life, flew into a most ridiculous Passion, and abusing the Limner after an unwarrantable Maner, swore he could design the Picture for no-body but him.

THE *Artist* having born the *Knight's* Abuses a considerable Time, without being able to comprehend the Reason of them, and being with much Difficulty at last made sensible of the *little Monster's* ridiculous Jealousy, very calmly answered; Sir, I am very sorry any *extempore Sketch* of my *Fancy* should give you such Offence; yet, upon mature Consideration, I cannot say that your Anger is intirely unreasonable; for take away the Tail, and I have drawn many a Picture that has not been so like the Original: And if I might advise you, it should be to purchase this; I can easily strike out the Tail; and then I defy any Limner in England to draw a more exact Resemblance.

THE *Knight* then found how very ridiculous he had made himself, and that the Story might not be repeated, bought the Picture which had given the Offence, at the *Limner's* own Price; I leave the Application to my Readers, and return to the Cardinal.

THIS *jealous Wretch*, whose Conscience was a continual Sting to him, grew at last so uneasy, that he could not hear the Names of *Sejanus*, *Rufinus*, *Eutropius*, *Stilico*, *Spencer*, *Gaveston*, or *Mortimer* pronounced with any manner

manner of Patience; the Man who would have been so ill-advised as to have mentioned them before him, would from that Instant have forfeited all his Friendship, had he been before never so dear to him: And he who should have drawn any of their Characters in writing, whilst *Wolsey* was in the *Zenith* of his Power, wou'd have pass'd his Time very ill, if a *pack'd Jury*, and a *corrupt Judge*, could have been obtain'd for any *Money*.

THIS brings to my mind some remarkable Lines that are spoken in the *foremention'd Play of the Fall of Mortimer*, between the *Queen* and *Mortimer*.

Queen. *Are the Guards posted? All your Creatures staunch?*

Is the chief Justice in a murd'ring Vein?

Mortimer. *If by the Tools we judge a Master's Skill?*

No Statesmans sure could boast a Set like mine:

They are the true-born Sons of Villany;

They stick at nought to serve their Master's Interest,

Or Treason, Murder, Regicide, or Incest.

Queen. *Ay, such as these besit our Purpose well.*

They'll soon remove all busy Politicians.

By this Sample one may almost venture to judge of all evil Ministers and their Tools; since that Man who will not stick at Oppression, and invading the Liberties of a free People, will

will hardly stick at the *horrideſt of Villany* ; for how many *horrid Crimes* are contain'd in that one Word *Oppreſſion* ? If a Man by *oppreſſing me*, and *depriving me of my Right*, reduces me to *Want*, which brings me to *Robbery* and *Murder* ; is not he equally guilty with me of the *Crimes* to which his *Oppreſſion* drives me ? And if this will hold good, as it certainly will, in the Caſe of a *ſingle Man*, how much ſtronger will it hold in the Caſe of a *whole Nation* ?

VAINLY therefore does a *Statesman*, in the plenitude of his Power, flatter himſelf that robbing the *Publick* is no *Robbery*, becauſe the *Publick* is better able to bear the Loſs than a *ſingle Perſon* ; which is true only, conſidering the *Publick* as one aggregate Body : For conſidering every individual of that Body, it is undoubtedly leſs heinous to rob any *rich Man*, than it is the *Publick*, which conſiſts of *twenty poor Wretches* for one *rich Man*.

To return from whence I have digreſs'd ; I have already deſcrib'd *Wolfey* as a Man full of the *meanest Jealouſy* or to ſpeak more properly, as a Man who knowing himſelf guilty of the worſt of *Crimes*, imagin'd himſelf meant under every villanous Character that was mention'd ; but what I am now going to relate of him is ſo very ridiculous, that it will hardly be believ'd that a Man of any Senſe would expoſe himſelf at that rate.

A certain Author having written a Play, wherein amongst other Characters, he introduced that of a *Highwayman*, who had long gone on prosperously in his *Villany*, but was at last brought to condign Punishment, and hanged, it is not to be imagined how much uneasiness this Play gave him; insomuch, that altho', if he had considered in the least, he might have known that it would be exposing himself to the last Degree to prevent it's being acted, he could not forbear exerting his Power to that Purpose, and accordingly caus'd it be suppressed. Would not any one infer from thence, that he saw something in the Character of the *Highwayman* which gall'd him? Certainly they would.

To proceed, his Jealousy however did not only extend to the not bearing the mention of any *evil Ministers* of former Times, or any *Character* bordering thereupon in a Play, but he was infinitely jealous of all Men of *fine Parts* and *Learning*; insomuch, that, by his good Will, he would not have suffered such a one to have appear'd at Court, much less to have enjoy'd any considerable Post of *Honour* or *Profit* under the Government.

ACCORDINGLY if any such there was, who had too much Interest at Court to be absolutely removed at his Pleasure, he would either send him into an *honourable Banishment*, upon some

some *sleeveless Embassy*, or else, on pretence of preferring him, cause some *remote Employment* to be conferred upon him, which should require his Attendance at a Distance from Court.

HIS Reason for this was, because he was conscious that should *any Man of great Abilities* appear there, he would soon eclipse him, by his superior Genius ; his own Knowledge being but very superficial in every Thing, unless it were in *making up his Accounts*, in which indeed, it must be allowed, *he was a perfect Master*. As to all other Points, he was as very a *Noodle* as ever pretended, or was ever intrusted to *ruin, not govern*, a State.

THE next Point of Light in which this consummate *Politician* is to be considered, is his peculiar Way of *managing Debates*, whether in *Parliament* or in *Writing* ; his *Eloquence* being what he is said to have particularly valued himself upon.

WHENEVER then this worthy Gentleman found himself pressed upon by his *Adversaries*, urging *Matter of Fact* against him, as *Matters of Fact* are such *stubborn Things*, as 'tis impossible to evade by all the *Sophistry*, or *tinsel Eloquence* in the World, he always had Recourse to one Argument, which was down right denying them ; if it was in *Debates*, *tho' he was sure to be contradicted the very next*

Hour; or point blank giving his *Opponents* the *Lye*, if it was in *Writing*.

THIS Method of Argumentation he very much approved and practised; I presume for all his *Adversaries* maliciously gave out the Contrary, that he was a Man of profound *Erudition*, and had found in *Homer* in the Disputes between *Achilles* and *Agamemnon*, that those two Monarchs use much the same Dialect; however it happens not to be approved by us ignorant *Moderns*.

HE was likewise a mighty Admirer of *Procrastination*, that is putting the evil Day far off; for which Reason if the *English* had any Differences with their Enemies, he would put up with a hundred *Injuries* and *Insults* rather than come to *Extreamities*, which made some Folks imagine him to be a very good *Christian*, since he was for practising that Maxim in Scripture, *If any Man smite thee on the right Cheek, turn to him the left also*.

BUT this Piece of Policy, as *Christian* as it was, proved of very bad Consequence in the *Management of State Affairs*, for the Enemy perceiving his peaceable Disposition, never failed increasing their Demands, and offering fresh *Insults*, in order to bully him into a Compliance, so that if he was forced into a War, by their repeated *Injuries*, which often happen'd, he found, to his Sorrow, that it would

would have been more for the *Honour*, as well as the *Advantage* of *England* to have begun with them first.

CERTAIN it is, never was the Honour of this Island at such a low Pitch as *during his Administration*; and that if so brave and enterprizing a Prince as *Henry VIII.* had not been resolute, and once more rouz'd the *Englist* Spirit, it never could have been retrieved, but we should have been insulted by all our Neighbours round, in their turns.

THO' *Wolsey* (as I before observed) had an absolute Assendant over King *Henry VIII.* yet it is not to be suposed (although the CORRUPTION and LUXURY, which he introduc'd into the *Nation*, had in some measure enervated the Minds of the *People*) that the *Spirits* of all were quite so broken, as tamely to submit to be made *Slaves* to such an *Upstart*; especially the *Barons*, who had made such noble *Stands* in the *preceeding Reigns*, against the Oppressions of *Gaveston*, the *Spencers*, and *Mortimer*.

ACCORDINGLY we find that the Earls of *Leicester* and *Berkley*, with the Viscount *Mountacute*, amongst the Lords, and several PATRIOTS among the Commons, whose Names ought to be written in Letters of Gold, prov'd continual *Thorns* in the Side of *Mortimer*, and at last work'd that Minister's Destruction.

IT is no wonder that *Wolsey*, who, besides his *natural Cowardice*, had just Wit enough not to despise an Enemy, *labour'd their Ruin with all his Might*. But this being a Point not easily to be compass'd, since the *Laws* must have been *strain'd to a Degree*, before they (especially the *Peers*) could have been brought to suffer, for which he was not as yet prepar'd; being willing to shew his *impotent Malice*, and gratify his *Revenge*, in some measure, he prevail'd on the *King* to banish several of his Adversaries *the Court*.

THIS was but an *impolitick Step* in *Wolsey*, since it *widen'd the Breach*, which was but already too wide before, and made all *Advances towards a Reconciliation* impracticable. He ought to have employ'd them to rid him of the *briskest of his Enemies*; the rest, when not inspir'd by them, would afterwards have been the less dangerous.

HAVING so many Enemies, and those *Men* of the greatest *Honour, Parts, and Courage*, as well as *Estates*, it behoved him, one wou'd have thought, to have been upon his Guard, and to have kept some Measures; but, on the contrary, as his *Avarice* was as great as his *Insolence*, in spite of his *Pride* he would stoop to the *meanest Actions* to satiate it. 'Tis true, he wou'd not appear therein himself; but then he had his *trusty Agents* whom he cou'd rely on, and whom he employ'd
in

in these *Commissions*, as well as in *selling Places*.

To make this understood, I must premise, that there were at that time of Day, no *Pawn-brokers*; but if any Man was so necessitated as to want to raise a Sum of Money upon *Plate*, he carried it to the *Goldsmiths*, who would lend him at an *exorbitant Interest*: And 'twas from thence that the Street where the *Goldsmiths* then chiefly liv'd, was call'd *Lombard-street*, the *Lombards* having been the first *Usurers* that ever were known in *Europe*.

BUT *Wolfey* not being satisfied with the immense *Revenue* which the *Places* he enjoy'd, and those he sold, not to mention the *Gleanings* of the *Treasury*, produced annually; bethought himself of this noble *Project*, well worthy him, which was, to employ one whom he could confide in, and set him up as a *Goldsmith*, to take in such *Pledges* as should be brought to him, and lend out *Money* upon them at an *exorbitant Interest*.

How unfortunate it was for this worthy *Gentleman*, that there were no *Funds*, no *Stock-jobbing*, nor no *Change-Alley*! If there had, I don't in the least question, but he would have made as good a *Figure* there, as any of the *Directors* of the *South Sea*, in that blessed Year 1720; and might have been worth as many *Millions* as he was *Plumbs*, when *K. Henry VIII.* very uncivilly forced him to make
Restitution.

*Restitution. A very bad Precedent indeed.—
Thank God there have not been any such made
in our Days.*

THE only commendable Quality with which it was ever pretended that *Wolsey* was endued is, that he was *an admirable good Relation*; no one, I believe will offer to say that this is not a *laudable Qualification*; and for my Part, I should be very loth to deprive a Man of the only good Quality he ever had.

BUT it is a very true Saying, that *Malice and Ill-will speak well of no-body*; accordingly some *envious Detractors* have attempted to rob him even of this *Commendation*: For, say they, *Corruptio optimi fit pessima*; When the best things are carried to an Excess, they degenerate into the worst: Thus the very best *Wines* will turn to *Vinegar*; and that was the Case as to *Wolsey's Kindness to his Relations*, which at the bottom was only Self love; he loved himself in them, and his Pride made him prefer them.

FOR, pursue they, let us but examine to what a height he carried this his *Kindness* to them, and let us see if any one can call it *warrantable*, or pretend to justify it: In the first place then, his *Brothers and Nephews* engross'd all the most beneficial Places in the Kingdom, without any one good *Quality* to recommend them, unless you will call the being related to him so.

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HIS Nieces Husbands were provided for in the same manner; nay even his most distant Kindred were handsomely preferred; and a *Welsh Cousin* of his would have carried away considerable Post, from the most deserving Man in *England*.

HE even carried his Partiality to his Relations so far, *that one of them having by some Means or other (I think it was with respect to his Religion) disqualify'd himself from holding a Place of 400 l. per Annum, he advised him to deny the Fact (though he had often confessed it before several Witnesses) and continue in his Place, and he would take Care it should be no farther examined into.*

LET any one now judge, continue they, whether this is a *commendable Qualification*, and whether the *Publick Affairs* were not likely to prosper well in the Hands of such a *Pack of Blunderers*.

WHAT will seem most surprizing is, that his *Family was so numerous*, including distant Relations, that it will appear *incredible to the present Age*, that it should be in the Power of any Minister, even tho' the Favourite to the King, to prefer such a Number of them to the best Posts in the Kingdom, while Persons of the *greatest Parts and Quality*, were suffer'd to pass their Days in obscurity, like private Men.

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BUT

BUT (*non cuivis homini contingit adire Corinthum*) *Kissing goes by favour*, is an old and true Proverb, that has been verified in all Ages ; and I believe will continue so to be, to Eternity.

HIS Insolence at last came to that degree, that not content with Power and Authority of *Prime Minister*, when occasion offer'd to mention the *King* in any Affair wherein he was himself concern'd, he would say, *Ego & Rex meus, I and my King*; an Expression so arrogant, as could come from none but such an *Upstart*, whose *Pride* had swell'd him beyond the knowledge of himself.

NOR was this all, for the *Commons* being enrag'd at the *Oppression* and *Grievances* they labour'd and groan'd under thro' his means, unknown to the *King*; and his *Majesty* being inform'd thereof, and willing to redress them, by revoking an *Imposition* that had been laid upon them, this *insolent Wretch* had the Assurance to order his Secretary to give out that it was by his means it was revoked.

HIS Retinue when he travell'd, exceeded that of his *Sovereign*, and he is reported to have had in his Train at one time an Hundred *Lords* and *Knights*. And herein his *Pride* is not so much to be admired, as the Meanness of the *Nobility* in crouching to such an *Upstart*.

As

As *Henry VIII.* was a Prince of uncommon Abilities, it was something surprizing that he suffer'd himself to be so many Years impos'd upon by this *wicked Minister*, and that he not sooner discover his Treachery : But when once a Person, who is himself a Man of Honour, has imbibed a good Opinion of any one, 'tis very hard to undeceive him.

WE have an Instance how far a Prince of the greatest Sagacity may be impos'd on, in *Tiberius Cæsar*; this Emperor, tho' naturally suspicious, repos'd so great a Confidence in his *Favourite, and Prime Minister* Sejanus, as had very near prov'd his *own Destruction*; and had he not been a compleat Master of *Disimulation*, he cou'd not possibly have avoid'd it; for that *ungrateful Wretch*, having thro' the Emperor's Indolence, and abandoning himself to Pleasure, the disposal of all Offices and Employments, had advanced so many of his Creatures, that had *Tiberius* given the least Intimation of his Design to punish him, before he put it in execution, he would probably have found his Power in the *Empire* greater than his own: So dangerous it is for a Prince to intrust any Minister with too much Authority.

To return to the *Cardinal*, this over-grown Plunderer, which daily fatten'd upon the Spoils of the Publick, imagining himself secure in the Favour of his Sovereign, which he enjoy'd without a Rival, resolv'd to stick at nothing

fatiate his *Ambition, Avarice, or Revenge*; accordingly a certain *Member of the House of Commons* having often oppos'd his *Measures*, and openly inveigh'd against this *Male-Administration*, without his being able either to *bribe or terrify* him into *Silence*, he laid a Plot effectually to remove him.

To this End he caused a *scandalous Pamphlet* to be written by some of his *Mercenaries*, wherein that *Gentleman's Character* was *translated and vilify'd* after the most outrageous *Manner*; well knowing that this would produce a *Proper Reply* from a *Gentleman of his Honour and Spirit*. In the mean while, to screen himself from the *Imputation* of being the *Author or Adviser* of such a *scurrilous Libel*, he caused it artfully to be reported by his *dark Emissaries*, that it was written by a *gallant and brave young Nobleman*, who scorn'd such a villanous Action.

THIS had the desired Effect; for the *abused Gentleman*, fir'd with the *Reproaches* cast upon him undeservedly in that *Pamphlet*, and that by one (as he imagined) whom he had never in the least injured, immediately wrote an *Answer full of Spirit*, wherein he displayed the *Cardinal's Blunders, Corruption, and Oppression*, in such a *glaring Light*, that all *Men of Sense and Honour* were shock'd at such a *Scene of Iniquity* as was open'd therein. in the Pursuit of this Undertaking some *severe Strokes* were level'd at the *supposed Author*,
which

which the *young Nobleman* highly resenting, he sent a *formal Challenge to the Gentleman*. This was just what *Wolsey* had foreseen and wanted; for, *says this infernal Politician*, 'tis almost impossible, considering how much they are exasperated against each other, but one of them must fall in the *Encounter*; and then, whatever Way it happens, I shall get rid of a *formidable Enemy*; for either he will fall by his *Adversary's Sword*; or if he should get the better, and kill him, he must necessarily fall by the *Hand of Justice*.

HOWEVER, the *dark Scheme*, as artfully as it was laid, did not take effect; for the *Gentleman* came very honourably off of the *Encounter*, having wounded his *Adversary* slightly in several Places, and receiv'd but one slight Wound himself, to the *infinite Mortification of the Cardinal*.

OUR worthy Minister had one excellent Faculty, which was, that he was very fruitful in *Expedients*; but had this Misfortune, that they were generally attended with very ill Success; insomuch that he was often put to his shifts for some *new Stratagem to gain Time*; it being his constant and favourite Maxim, *That he that gains Time, gains all*. But of all his *Inventions*, that upon which he chiefly valued himself, and indeed which was his principal Security, and the main Reason of his continuing so long in Power, was his *Contrivance* to secure himself a *Majority in Parliament*, which he did two Ways: I

I have already promis'd, that the whole *Secret and Art* of his *Administration* consisted in *Bribery*; now by *Bribery* I don't only mean *Presents in Money, Jewels, &c.* but whatever may be an *Inducement* to any Person to espouse the *Interest of a Man*, whose *Conduct* he wou'd not otherwise approve; and consequently is *equivalent to a Bribe*.

Now *Wolfey* had an admirable Knack at discovering the *Blind-side* of Mankind; wherefore if a *leading Member* had a *large Estate*, and was *haughty and vain-glorious*, he never offer'd to tempt him with a *Place* or *Pension*, but would try if he was Proof against a *Title*, or a *Ribbon*. On the other hand, if *Avarice* was the *prevailing Passion*, a good *Place* or *Pension* always prov'd an irresistible Charm.

BUT as there is no *Convenience* without some *Inconveniency*, there not being a sufficient Number of *Places*, to assure him a *Majority* of *Creatures*, even with the Assistance of those who were gain'd by *Titles*; and conferring *Pensions* upon the rest was found very *burthensome and impracticable*; he had recourse to another *Method*, which fully answer'd his Purpose, and of which he had the Merit to be the first Inventor.

THIS was, that there being several very *lucrative Offices and Employments in the State*,
such

such as that of *Lord High Admiral*, &c. which used to be conferr'd upon *single Persons*, but yet whole Salaries might very well suffice for 6 or 7 of his Creatures, instead of one who by the *greatness of his Office*, and having constant Access to the *King*, might have given him Umbrage.

It was thought, but upon what Grounds I know not, that *Henry VIII.* who, as I have before observ'd, was a discerning Prince, saw the Avarice and Ambition of his Minister, long before he divested him of his Employments, and even that he hated and despised him. The only Reason that was assign'd for his not cashiering him sooner, was the Influence he had gain'd over the *Commons* by Corruption, whereby he was enabled to supply the King with larger Subsidies, than had ever before been granted to, any *English Monarch*.

NOR was this Influence confin'd to the *Commons* only, for he had likewise a considerable Interest in the House of *Peers*; neither is this much to be wondred at, when one considers that all Preferments, even *Bishopricks*, coming thro' his hands, and *Loaves and Fishes* being great Temptations, it was for the Advantage of those Prelates that desired Translations to vote on his Side, without which, it was well known, they had no room to hope for them.

ACCOR-

ACCORDINGLY, never was Man better serv'd by that *R——d B——ch* than the Cardinal, of which they give very extraordinary Instances, particularly upon a certain Occasion, when a Bill having pass'd the Commons, which gave the Minister great Uneasiness, it being thought that it would undoubtedly have pass'd the other House, especially as it no Ways related to them, it was thrown out purely by their Influence: In short, to use a military Expression, they were his choicest Troops, upon whom he could rely, whenever any desperate Service was to be done.

BUT the most extraordinary Qualification of this *Phoenix* of a Minister was his uncommon Skill in managing Negotiations; herein he was so great a Master, that he was justly esteem'd the Nonpareil of his Age. Our Neighbours beheld his Treaties with Wonder and Surprise; apprehending, no doubt, and that not without Reason, that a Nation, over whose Councils such a consummate Politician presided, must necessarily become formidable to the rest of *Europe*.

NEITHER was his Address in holding the Fallance of *Europe* less admirable, insomuch that it acquired the Person, whom he chiefly entrusted with carrying on his most important Negotiations, the honourable Appellation

tion of Mr. *Ballance*. This was apparent to the whole World, by his artful shifting Alliances, for that purpose; joining first with *France*, to curb the exorbitant Power of the House of *Austria*; and afterwards uniting with the Emperor, to put a Stop to the ambitious Designs of *France*.

To lay Irony aside, he was the most incomprehensible Plunderer that ever harrafs'd and oppress'd a poor injur'd Nation; and so fatal were his Blunders, that he involv'd the Kingdom with all her Neighbours round; and at last brought Matters to that pass, by multiplying Treaties and Alliances with Potentates whose Interests lay directly opposite, that 'twas impossible to contrive a new Treaty, which would not embroil her with one of them.

It is not to be imagined that a Minister, who (by his Mismanagement) had almost brought the most flourishing People in the Universe to the Brink of Destruction, should always prosper in his Villany, or be able always to delude a Monarch of the greatest Spirit; and prostitute the Glory of a Prince, who was noted for the most personal Bravery of any Prince in *Europe*.

THE Time now drew nigh, when this rapacious, infamous PLUNDERER was to suffer condign Punishment; and to shew the Fatality that attended this Wretch, he brought

it upon himself entirely by his own Fault ; and that by a Blunder, which no-body who had been so long conversant in Courts, but such a Noodle as *himself* would have committed.

THIS was, that the King having a certain Point very much at Heart, which he was very desirous of gaining, but which he could not well do, without the Concurrence of his Minister ; it being to be transacted at a Foreign Court, where *Wolfey* was known to have some Interest ; His Majesty founded him there-upon, and he at first seem'd very ready to assist him in his Design, because it agreed with some *private Ends of his own, which he had in view* : But upon better diving into the *Affair*, the *Cardinal* found an Article at the bottom ; of which he had at first no Suspicion ; and which he imagin'd, one Day or other, might be the means of undermining his present Grandeur. There needed no more than this to make him oppose it with his utmost Power, Fear and Jealousy of Rivals, being his predominant Passions. Nevertheless, this ambitious Statesman durst not openly thwart the Inclinations of his Sovereign, wherefore he sent private Orders to his Agents at that Court, in whom he could confide, to find some means or other to protract, and spin out the Negotiation by affected Delays, hoping thereby to wear out *Henry's* Patience, and make him abandon his Design.

BUT

BUT this could not be carried on so secretly, but that *Wolsey's* Enemies, (who had been long watchful for his Ruin) had Information thereof, and accordingly acquainted the King how vilely this unworthy Minister trifled with his Majesty.

HENRY, who was naturally impatient, find at the Affront, especially when he received daily Informations of the Oppressions wherewith he had loaded the People, unknown to Him; as also that he had designed to render himself independent of Him, by purchasing a Sovereignty abroad; to which End he had amass'd such an immense Treasure, as never before was in the Possession of a Subject; Part of which he had already remitted abroad.

THIS compleated his Ruin; for the King then thought it was *high* Time to seize of the Remainder, which he accordingly did; and divesting him of all his Employments and Honours, excepting his Ecclesiastical Dignities, whereof he could not deprive him, order'd him to retire to his Arch-bishoprick of *York*, and not stir from thence at his Peril.

HEREUPON the Cardinal set out for *York*, but reach'd no farther than *Cawerth* before he died of a broken Heart, utterly unlamented by all but his own Creatures. It was universally

fally believed that nothing but his Ecclesiastical Capacity, whereof no King could at that Time take cognisance, prevented his feeling severer Marks of *Henry's* Displeasure; and that otherwise he would have graced the Scaffold or the Gallows, as well as several Traytors and evil Ministers have done before and since.

To conclude, having brought *this Wretch* to his melancholy *Exit*, I shall only add this hearty Wish for the Prosperity of *Old England*,

*If any such there is within this State,
Thus prays the Muse, and let this be his Fate.
No more let Whig and Tory Patriots jar,
But against * Wolfey wage eternal War,
Let all unite his Treasons to detect,
And let him feel what Traytors ought t' expect.*

* *Quære.* Whether, if instead of *Wolfey* at length, we had put *W——*, we should not have been brought in guilty of a Libel against *Mr. Walsingham*, in these critical Times.

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